

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Background Research

Prior to the initiation of the standing structure assessment and the geomorphological fieldwork, background research was conducted at the SHPO office in Dover. This research consisted of the examination of the Delaware archaeological site files, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files, the historic resources inventory files, and reports documenting previously conducted cultural resource studies. In addition, cultural resource reports on file with DelDOT that are germane to the project goals were reviewed, as well as the relevant state-wide historic and archaeological contexts, historic maps, and historic as-built roadway plans. DelDOT supplied some germane tax parcel, deed, and other historic documentary information.

Historic background research also included examination of archival resources found at the local history reading room of the Bridgeville Public Library and the Georgetown Public Library. Interviews with local informants, such as Flora Williams, a property owner adjacent to the project APE, and Brian Page, a historic preservation planner with the Sussex County Engineering Department, contributed information regarding the house (S-4387) and surrounding area.

Certain historic themes relevant to the project area, which is located in the Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp geographic zone, have been identified in the Historic Context Master Reference and Summary (Herman *et al.* 1990) and the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan (Ames *et al.* 1989). Applicable historic themes for evaluating this resource include: agriculture; manufacturing; retailing/wholesaling; transportation and communication; settlement patterns and demographic changes; architecture and engineering; decorative arts community organizations; and major families, individuals, and events. Bridgeville's historical significance ranges from the 1730-1770± Intensified and Durable Occupation chronological period to the 1880-1940± Urbanization and Early Suburbanization chronological period. The historical and architectural significance of the house (S-4387) was evaluated within these contexts.

2.2 Fieldwork

The geomorphological field investigations were completed by the project Geomorphologist and the Principal Investigator. The purpose of the geomorphological investigations was to assess

the nature of the landform and soils of the project APE, and to determine if appropriate areas exist for the implementation of Phase I archaeological fieldwork. The investigations included the examination of the project APE via expedient auger borings to determine the presence or absence of in situ soils, microrelief, the depth of potential cultural deposits, and any areas of disturbance. Several auger borings were taken to a depth of 100.0 cm (39.4 in) and the soil profiles were examined. A few of the attempted auger borings were refused at shallow depths due to obstructions such as rocks. Four stratigraphic profiles representative of the project APE were described in detail, according to the methods and nomenclature of the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (Schoeneberger *et al.* 2002). The results of the geomorphological investigations, in concert with the historic background information, were used to determine the potential for both precontact and historic period archaeological resources within the project APE.

The standing structure assessment fieldwork was completed by the project Historian. The Bridge 146 Retaining Wall project APE was visited in order to completely describe, map, and photograph the house (S-4387) and property. Appropriate standardized forms were completed for the property (Appendix A). The architectural evaluation of the house (S-4387) is based on the results of this fieldwork. At the same time, local informants were interviewed who provided information regarding the house (S-4387), the general area, and nearby historic resources.